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Virgil M. Hancher to be 1960 Commencement Speaker

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MAY 19

Virgil M. Hancher, president of the State University of Iowa, will address the class of 1960 at the Montana State University Commencement Exercises on Monday, June 6, MSU officials announced.

Formal installation of MSU President H. K. Newburn, who assumed his duties at the University in the fall of 1959, and the awarding of an honorary doctor of laws degree to President Hancher will be features of the exercises.

Dr. Hancher was a partner in the Chicago law firm of Pope and Ballard from 1924 until 1940, when he was appointed president of the State University of Iowa.

He has twice won the George Washington Honor Medal of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. In 1956 he was one of 19 citizens cited for "distinguished achievements" by Delta Sigma Rho, national honorary forensic society. He has received honorary doctorates from 10 American universities.

The educator is vice president of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars, trustee for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships and vice president of the Association of American Universities. He is a member of the United States delegation to the United Nations.

He has held national offices in the American Council of Education, the State Universities Association, the National Association of State Universities and other education organizations. He has been chairman of the educational policies commission of the National Education Association and the American Association of School Administrators and has been a member of the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO.

(more)

He has twice served on committees by appointment by President Eisenhower and is a member of the first board of visitors to the U. S. Air Force Academy. He is a director of the Midwestern Universities Research Association, chairman of the Midwestern Interstate Committee on Higher Education and a member of the Commission on Government and Higher Education.

President Hancher holds bachelor of arts and juris doctor degrees from the State University of Iowa, where he was senior class president and a member of Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honorary, Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity and Sigma Nu social fraternity.

After receiving his bachelor's degree at Iowa, serving for a year in the U. S. Naval Reserve and studying law at Iowa for a year, he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, England, where he earned B. A. and M. A. degrees. He is the author of more than 40 published articles and speeches.

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